



July 13, 2016

Hon. Basil Seggos
Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207-2942

Hon. Howard Zucker
Commissioner
Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza,
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Commissioners Seggos and Zucker,

Thank you for your departments' recent and ongoing work in response to the drinking water crisis in the City of Newburgh. We appreciate the opportunities to meet and discuss this important matter.

Please find enclosed, "Contamination of the Drinking Water Reservoir and Watershed of the City of Newburgh: A Case Study and a Call for Comprehensive Source Water Protection."

When Gov. Andrew Cuomo created a Water Quality Rapid Response Team in February 2016, he directed your departments to "develop the nation's leading water quality program and prepare a comprehensive action plan" that will "include recommendations to strengthen the state's existing drinking water, groundwater and surface water protection programs," incorporating "the best available science" and in consideration of "enhanced testing and oversight of drinking water systems."

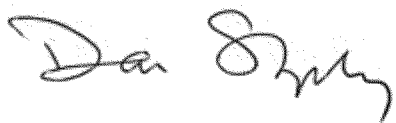
Using Newburgh, where the primary drinking water reservoir has been contaminated as a case study, the attached document provides a framework for

achieving these directives relative to source water protection, utilizing existing legal authorities and precedents in New York State.

Please use this document to assist in a broader and concurrent response in Newburgh that includes protection and restoration of the city's drinking water supply, in addition to its remediation. We also hope that this document will be used by communities outside Newburgh to assist in the development of drinking source water protection programs.

We look forward to continued discussions on this topic.

Sincerely,



Dan Shapley
Water Quality Program Manager



John Parker
Director of Legal Programs

cc:

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